

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions or listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) Apparatus for attaching a towed implement to the drawbar of a tractor having lift arms laterally displaced from the drawbar, comprising:

a hitch ~~for selective coupling to the drawbar of the tractor;~~

a first pivotable connector associated with a forward portion of the hitch, said first connector being adapted for selective coupling to the drawbar of a tractor to establish a first pivotable connection between the hitch and the tractor;

a stabilizer extending laterally from the hitch and having elements for coupling to the lift arms of the tractor ~~whereby~~ such that the stabilizer prevents the hitch from pivoting with respect to the drawbar about said first pivotable connection when a pivoting force is exerted against the hitch; and

a hitch pivot ~~located behind the stabilizer and associated with the hitch~~ mounted to an implement to be towed; and

a second pivotable connector associated with a rearward portion of the hitch for establishing a second pivotable connection between the hitch and ~~a front end of the towed implement~~ the hitch pivot, whereby

pivoting movement between the tractor and the towed implement occurs at the second pivotable connection.

2. (Original) Apparatus as in Claim 1, wherein:

the stabilizer is displaceable along the length of the hitch to accommodate variations in longitudinal spacing between the drawbar and lift arms of the tractor.

3. (Original) Apparatus as in Claim 1, wherein:

the stabilizer is rotatable in a plane transverse to the length of the hitch to accommodate rolling movement of the tractor relative to the towed implement.

4. (Original) Apparatus as in Claim 1, wherein:

the stabilizer is displaceable along the length of the hitch to accommodate variations in longitudinal displacement between the drawbar and lift arms of the tractor, and is rotatable in a plane transverse to the length of the hitch to accommodate rolling movement of the tractor relative to the towed implement.

5. (Currently amended) Apparatus as in Claim 1, wherein the stabilizer comprises:

a tubular central portion ~~slideably~~ slidably mounted on a forward portion of the hitch;
stabilizer wings extending laterally from the central portion; and
attachment elements associated with the stabilizer wings in distal relation to the central portion for coupling the stabilizer wings to the lift arms of the tractor.

6. (Original) Apparatus as in Claim 1, wherein the hitch pivot comprises:

a main frame for attachment to the towed implement;
a pair of upright frame members mounted at mutually spaced apart intermediate locations on the main frame and extending upwardly from the main frame;
an upper frame extending between the upright frame members above the main frame;
upper pivot means mounted to the upper frame member;
lower pivot means mounted to the main frame in alignment with the upper pivot means; and
means pivotably connecting the upper and lower pivot means to the hitch to establish the pivotable connection between the hitch and the front end of the towed implement.

7. (Original) Apparatus as in Claim 1, wherein the hitch comprises:

an elongated lower hitch tube a front end of which is adapted for coupling to the drawbar of the tractor, and having a rearward portion; upright frame members mounted in mutually spaced apart relation on each side of the lower hitch tube;

an upper hitch tube mounted between the upright frame members and extending rearward in parallel spaced-apart relation to the rearward portion of the lower hitch tube; and

pivot means adjacent rearward ends of the upper hitch and the lower hitch tube, the pivot means defining a pivot axis between the tractor and the towed implement.

8. (Original) Apparatus as in Claim 1, wherein the hitch comprises:

an elongated lower hitch tube a front end of which is adapted for coupling to the drawbar of the tractor, and having a rearward portion; upright frame members mounted in mutually spaced apart relation on each side of the lower hitch tube;

an upper hitch tube mounted between the upright frame members and extending rearward in parallel spaced-apart relation to the rearward portion of the lower hitch tube; and

pivot elements adjacent rearward ends of the upper hitch tube and the lower hitch tube, the pivot means defining a pivot axis between the tractor and the towed implement;

and wherein the hitch pivot comprises:

a main frame for attachment to the towed implement;

a pair of upright frame members mounted at mutually spaced apart intermediate locations on the main frame and extending upwardly from the main frame;

an upper frame extending between the upright frame members above the main frame;

upper pivot means mounted to the upper frame member and adapted for pivotable connection with the pivot element on the upper hitch tube; and

lower pivot means mounted to the main frame in alignment with the upper pivot means and adapted for pivotable connection with the pivot element on the lower hitch tube.

9. (Currently amended) Apparatus for attaching a towed implement to the drawbar of a tractor having lift arms laterally displaced from the drawbar, comprising:

a hitch having a first pivotable connector at a proximal end portion thereof for selective coupling to the drawbar of the tractor and having

a second pivotable connector at a distal end portion thereof for pivoting attachment to the towed implement; and

a stabilizer extending laterally from the hitch between the proximal and distal ends and having elements for coupling to the lift arms of the tractor ~~whereby~~ such that the stabilizer prevents the hitch from pivoting about said first pivotable connector with respect to the drawbar when a pivoting force is exerted against the hitch,

whereby pivoting movement between the tractor and the towed implement occurs at the second pivotable connector.